

**Lisa Driscoll**

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**From:** Tommy Smith <tlsmith2010@live.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 21, 2021 8:35 PM  
**To:** Lisa Driscoll  
**Cc:** Alison McKee; Walter Beveridge  
**Subject:** Measure X funds for Equitable Library Access

To the Members of the Measure X Citizen's Advisory Board,

I am writing in support of the proposal by County Librarian Alison McKee to allocate a proportion of Measure X funds for additional county-paid library hours.

This proposal aligns with the intent of Measure X in supporting safety-net services; early childhood education, and protecting vulnerable populations. Our libraries provide essential services in literacy for children and adults. Libraries are key in bridging the digital divide by providing free internet access. Libraries provide relief as cooling stations, increasingly necessary as we suffer the effects of climate change. Our Concord library even provides nutritional and wellness support for youth with free lunches and programs on diet and exercise.

The funding proposal will establish standardized and equitable library hours countywide, eliminating the disparities in access to this vital public institution that are exasperated by the current funding model. Equal hours will ensure equal access and increase the availability of the library's literacy programs, free digital access and other community services for all.

We urge your support for increased county funded library hours.

Sincerely yours,

Tommy Smith, Library Commissioner, City of Concord

Sent from my iPad